

The President

Haim Bibas
Chairman of the Federation of
Local Authorities in Israel

Strasbourg, 10 October 2023

Dear Mr. Bibas,

On behalf of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, I am writing to express our solidarity with the national, regional and local authorities of Israel in the face of the brutal terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas, which I deplore and condemn in the strongest terms. Targeting civilians and using them as hostages are horrific acts which cannot be justified under any circumstances.

I wish to express our support in particular to the authorities and citizens of those communities that have been most directly affected by these barbaric attacks. Local authorities are always on the frontline in times of crises, mobilised to respond to the needs of their citizens and acting to protect them.

I know that your Federation, which enjoys Guest Observer status with the Congress, is doing its utmost to provide its member local authorities with the necessary support and assistance, and I wish you every success in this effort.

Yours sincerely,

Leendert Verbeek

